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SEMI-WEEKLY.

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W. N. ARMSTRONG, EDITOR.

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AMERICA OPENS FIRE TO LIBERATE CUBA

Two Spanish Merchant Vessels Captured in Southern Waters. Blockade of All Cuban Ports.

Spain Threatens to Bombard American Ports. President is Expected to Call for Volunteers.

(FROM THE ADVERTISER EXTRA.)

KEY WEST, (Fla.), April 23.—An incoming tug reports that the New York has captured a Spanish passenger steamer plying between Havana and Porto Rico. The torpedo flotilla is coming in. It is believed here that the prize captured by the Flagship New York is the Alfonso XII, the mail steamer due at Havana today (not the warship of that name). The Spanish ship tried to run away, but the New York gave chase, firing shot after shot until the Spaniards hove to and surrendered.

KEY WEST, (Fla.), April 22.—Patrick Mullen fired the first shot in the war between Spain and the United States, and the big Spanish freight steamer Buena Ventura is the first prize of this country.

She was captured this morning eight miles south of Sand Key Light when the fleet of Rear Admiral Sampson had been gone from here scarcely an hour on its way to Havana. The Spanish vessel was brought to this port.

SHANGHAI, April 22.—The American squadron at Hong-kong has sailed for Manila. It is reported that the priests and the commercial classes favor surrender, but the military is determined to resist.

MADRID, April 22.—The Spanish Government states that it intends, as soon as the Americans bombard Havana, to do the same to Washington, Philadelphia and other points.

PROCLAMATION ISSUED.

Blockade of All Cuban Ports Or-
dered by the President.

WASHINGTON, April 22.—The fol-
lowing proclamation, announcing the
blockade of the Cuban ports, was is-
sued today:

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES—A PROCLAMA-
TION.

Whereas, By a joint resolution passed by the Congress and approved April 20, 1898, and communicated to the Government of Spain, it was demanded that said Government at once relinquish its authority and government in the Island of Cuba and withdraw its naval forces from Cuba and Cuban waters, and the President of the United States was directed and empowered to use the entire land and naval forces of the United States and to call into the actual service of the United States the militia of the several States to such extent as might be necessary to carry said resolution into effect; and Whereas, In carrying into effect such resolution the President of the United States deems it necessary to set on foot and maintain a blockade of the north of Cuba, including all ports of said coast between Cardenas and Bahia Honda, and the port of Cienfuegos on the south coast of Cuba;

Now, therefore, I, William McKinley, President of the United States, in order to enforce the said resolution, do hereby declare and proclaim that the United States of America has instituted and will maintain a blockade of the north coast of Cuba, including ports on said coast between Cardenas and Bahia Honda, and the port of Cienfuegos on the south coast of Cuba, aforesaid, in pursuance of the laws of the United States and the laws of nations applicable to such cases. An efficient force will be posted, so as to prevent the entrance and exit of vessels from the ports aforesaid. Any neutral vessel approaching said ports and attempting to leave the same without notice or knowledge of the establishment of such blockade will be duly warned by the commander of the blockading forces, who will indorse on her register the fact and the date of such warning and where such indorsement is made, and if the same vessel shall attempt to enter any blockaded port she will be captured and sent to the nearest convenient port for such proceedings against her and her cargo as prize as may be deemed advisable. Neutral vessels lying in any of the said ports at the time of the establish-

ment of such blockade will be allowed thirty days to issue therefrom.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the city of Washington, this 22d day of April, A. D. 1898, and of the Independence of the United States the one hundred and twenty-second.

WILLIAM McKINLEY.

By the President:
JOHN SHERMAN,
Secretary of State.

THE PRESIDENT'S INTENTIONS.

Proposes to Ask Congress for Declara-
tion of War.

WASHINGTON, April 22.—It is the present intention of the President to send a message to Congress tomorrow asking for a formal declaration of war. A special session of the House has been called for 10 o'clock tomorrow for the purpose of passing the army reorganization bill in time for final action on that measure by the Senate when it meets at noon.

The Secretary of the Navy has asked Congress for authority to enlist a naval auxiliary force to man the torpedo fleet intended for coast defense purposes.

There is a difference of opinion between Secretary Alger and General Miles as to the time of movement of necessary troops and fleets into Cuban territory. Secretary Alger, carrying out the wishes of General Lee, it is understood, wants the troops to go ahead without waiting for the call for volunteers. General Miles, on the other hand, thinks it dangerous to send less than 50,000 troops into Cuba, and deems it advisable to wait until this number has been organized and drilled before an attempt is made to occupy the island.

PRESIDENT IS NOT SURE.

Asks Attorney-General if He Has
Authority to Call Volunteers.

NEW YORK, April 22.—A Herald Washington correspondent telegraphs. With a preamble to cover the present situation, a proclamation calling for 100,000 volunteers, couched essentially in the language of Abraham Lincoln's first call for troops, was prepared at the War Department and taken to the President shortly after he had signed

the volunteer army act. In the discussion of the issue of the proclamation, the President himself called attention to the fact that Congress has authorized no limit to the number of troops that may be called out. The volunteer army act provides the President shall issue his proclamation stating the number of men desired within such limits as may be fixed by law.

President McKinley, however, is not satisfied that his authority under law to call out men is yet sufficient, without express authorization by Congress of a stated limit. On account of this uncertainty Attorney General Griggs has been requested to give a decision.

LETTERS OF MARQUE.

Spanish Organ Believes in Right
of Privateering.

MADRID, April 22.—El Epoca (Conservative) discusses the question of privateers, and expresses a doubt of the truth of the report that the United States has renounced this option, "inasmuch as America and Spain were the only nations that maintained the option at the Congress of Paris in 1856." The paper insists that all the arguments then adduced by the United States for upholding the option now are in favor of Spain, who will not renounce it.

El Epoca says also that "Spain does not consider fair the declaration of the neutral powers as to contraband of war, thus favoring one of the belligerents, namely, America," and it cites the case of England in 1855, who opposed stoutly the action of France in the Tonkin war in declaring rice contraband.

"All that England then alleged in favor of British subjects," says El Epoca, "can be urged by Spain respecting coal, which is the bread of life of industry, without which modern warfare is impossible."

Respecting the blockade of Cuba, El Epoca calls to mind and invites the attention of Europe to the fact that "both America and Spain accepted clause four in the declaration of Paris, providing that 'a blockade must be effective and not on paper.'"

El Epoca declares that twice the present American fleet would not be adequate to establish an effective blockade of Cuba. Moreover, under the established rules, a blockade requires previous notification to the authorities of Cuba and the powers, allowing all shipping a definite term to clear out of the blockaded ports.

BELIEVE HER SAFE.

Oregon and Marietta Left Callao
for Brazil on April 5.

NEW YORK, April 22.—The Washington correspondent of the Herald says: Learning that the Spanish torpedo gun vessel Temerario is still at Montevideo, naval officers heaved a sigh of relief and have ceased to worry about the safety of the battleship Oregon and the gunboat Marietta. The Oregon left Callao, Peru, April 5, and it is believed that during the 17 days which have since elapsed she has covered a distance 4,300 miles, which would place her at this time in about the vicinity of Montevideo.

There is reason to believe the Oregon and the Marietta when next heard from will be reported at Rio de Janeiro. Minister Bryan, the American representative to Brazil, has made arrangements for coaling the ships immediately upon their arrival. Brazil cannot refuse to permit the vessels to purchase sufficient coal to carry them to Key West, her neutrality obligations only requiring that she shall not permit her ports to be used as a base of operations by one power against another. After leaving Rio de Janeiro the Oregon and the Marietta will steam at once to Key West, where they will coal. They will then join the North Atlantic Squadron. I was told at the Navy Department today that the Nichtheroy had not sailed from Rio de Janeiro, and the officials state now that as war is now on between the United States and Spain the former Brazilian cruiser will be held at her present anchorage until the arrival of the Oregon and the Marietta, which will convey her to the United States. It has developed that Brazil declined to sell the Nichtheroy with her battery, so that when she starts for this country she will have no guns aboard.

Preparing for Sea.

NEW YORK, April 22.—Charles R. Flint & Co. announced tonight that they had received a cable from their agents in Buenos Ayres, which said that the Spanish torpedo gun vessel Temerario was preparing to go to sea. The message further said it was reported that the Temerario was short of am-

munition, and that she was trying to secure some from the Argentine Republic.

BLANCO EXPECTS WAR.

Making Active Preparations to De-
fend Havana.

TAMPA, April 22.—I am informed by an intelligent Englishman who left Havana yesterday that Captain General Blanco and the Spanish authorities have since the departure of Connel General Lee regarded war as inevitable and have been bending extraordinary energy to the concentration of troops and supplies in Havana. Nearly a hundred thousand troops have been assembled, of whom 40,000 are regulars and the rest volunteers. This disposition leaves Havana Province practically at the mercy of insurgents, who scoring the sham armistice, are reported unusually active. Several small engagements have occurred within the last week in which the Spanish say they have been successful.

General Blanco has openly announced his intention to defend Havana against the American fleet or army, or both. Another enrollment of volunteers has been made which includes nearly all able-bodied men in the city and province and 30,000 have been distributed. The new recruits are being constantly drilled at night, and as a consequence the city constantly resounds with war-like sounds. Residents of Havana exhibit enthusiasm and determination. Many of the wealthy classes are closing their houses and moving to the interior, anticipating a siege or bombardment.

THE PARIS MAY BE CAPTURED.

Union Liner Leaves Southampton
With Cargo of Ammunition.

SOUTHAMPTON, Eng., April 22.—The steamer Paris of the American line, chartered by the United States Government, sailed at 2:15 p. m. for New York, though her regular sailing day is Saturday. She had 150 passengers, and her cargo included a quantity of guns and ammunition. There was great enthusiasm among the crowds on the docks, and the band of the Union Steamship Company's steamer Britain played "Yankee Doodle" as the Paris steamed seaward. The Paris passed Hurst Castle at 3:35 p. m.

LONDON, April 23.—The Daily Mail says: The Spanish embassy notified the Madrid Government of the departure of the Paris, and it is believed that fast cruisers from Cadiz and Corunna will try to intercept her.

The Liverpool correspondent of the Daily Telegraph says: Surprise was expressed here today (Friday) that the Paris should have sailed unescorted, especially as there were rumors in the Mersey that Spanish war vessels were waiting to intercept her off the south coast of Ireland. Yet the passengers of the Paris were assured of their perfect safety.

The Chronicle publishes a rumor that the American liner Paris had already been captured by Spanish warships.

TOPEKA IS REPORTED SUNK.

New Cruiser Bought By U. S. Goes
Down Off Falmouth.

LONDON, April 22.—The Daily Mail says this morning that it is stated in Falmouth shipping circles that the American cruiser Topeka, formerly the Diogenes, which left Falmouth on the evening of Tuesday, April 19th, founded in collision with the bark Albatross at midnight on Thursday. According to the Daily Mail, the captain of the Albatross asserts that after the collision the steamer, whose name he did not ascertain, flashed a light and suddenly disappeared. He believes she foundered.

Mission a Failure.

HAVANA, April 22.—The committee that went early in the week to Santa Cruz del Sur as agents of the autonomists to try and persuade the insurgents to accept the armistice offered by Spain will be back in Havana Sunday. It is expected. Its mission was a failure. It did not even get a chance to speak to the insurgent leaders whom it was asking to turn to peace.

Same Old Story.

NEW YORK, April 22.—The following was received from a Washington correspondent late tonight: Secretary of State Sherman is expected to resign from the Cabinet in the near future. Mr. Sherman has had very little to do with the important actions of the State Department during the crisis with Spain, and it is stated on high authority tonight that a change in the Secretaryship has been decided upon, and

that it will possibly occur within the next week or ten days. It is understood that Assistant Secretary of State Day is to be promoted to the head of the Department.

Battle Story Not Confirmed.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., April 22.—A special to the Times-Union and Citizen from Lantana says:

"An eye-witness has just arrived from Boynton and reports a supposed transport vessel southward bound, guarded by a man-of-war, pursued by a monitor, keeping up a heavy running fire."

This dispatch was dated at 10 a. m. WASHINGTON, April 22.—There is no confirmation of this story here.

Cuba Blockaded.

WASHINGTON, April 22.—Cablegrams were received by the Navy Department announcing that Rear Admiral Sampson had instituted a blockade of the northern ports of Cuba and on the strength of this a formal proclamation was issued by the President notifying the powers that an effectual blockade existed.

Coal All Bought Up.

BUENOS AYRES, April 22.—All the coal available here and at Rio de Janeiro has been purchased by English and American agents at the latter town. The Oregon and Marietta will take the Nichtheroy to the United States. A battalion of Spanish volunteers has been organized and equipped to go to Cuba.

Will See Service.

NEW ORLEANS, April 22.—Orders have been issued to intercept and seize the Catalina and Miguel Joves, the Spanish ships which left here last night. The Louisiana naval reserves will be put in service tomorrow, part going to Mobile and the main body to the mouth of the river.

Armistice at an End.

LONDON, April 22.—The Madrid correspondent of the Daily News says the Government has instructed General Blanco to declare the armistice in Cuba ended.

WAR NOTES.

Commander Sampson has been elevated to the rank of Rear Admiral.

The capture of Arthur Sewall's ship Shenandoah by the Spanish is reported.

The British press is strongly supporting the position the United States has taken.

Governor Budd of California has authorized calling the entire guard of the State into service.

Ex-Minister Phelps advocates an alliance with Great Britain for defensive purposes.

A crowd of Spaniards in Madrid tore down the escutcheon from the building of an American insurance company, and the civil governor of the city trampled upon it.

During Minister Woodford's journey from Spain a sergeant of the civil guard at Tolosa attempted to force the Minister's private secretary, Joaquin Moreno, a British subject, to disembark.

HIGH MASONS.

Installation of Perfection Lodge
and Chapter.

Officers of the Kamehameha Lodge of Perfection and Nuuanu Chapter Rose Croix No. 1, 18th Degree, were installed last night by Deputy and Legate Henry E. Cooper. The ceremony was most impressive and constituted the first installations of these rites that have taken place here in many years. The officers will serve three years. They are as follows:

Kamehameha Lodge of Perfection—F. R. Auerbach, V. M.; Fred Whitney, S. W.; A. V. Gear, J. W.; Geo. A. Davis, Orator; B. D. Whitney, Almoner; C. L. Crabbe, Secretary; David Dayton, Treasurer; A. B. Scrimgeour, M. C.; Wm. Auld, Expert; H. H. Williams, Assistant Expert; Louis Marks, Captain of Guard; B. D. Whitney, Tyler.

Nuuanu Chapter Rose Croix, No. 1, 18th Degree—F. R. Auerbach, Wise Master; A. V. Gear, S. W.; A. Barnes, J. W.; G. A. Davis, Orator; J. H. Bruns, Almoner; A. B. Scrimgeour, Secretary; David Dayton, Treasurer; Fred Whitney, M. C.; Wm. Auld, Expert; H. H. Williams, Assistant Expert; L. Marks, G. T.; B. D. Whitney, Tyler.

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